

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO TODMAN VISIT TO URUGUAY

USIAC

FOR ILA, IOP/M

REF: USIA 22825

CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT IL PAIS WEDNESDAY PUBLISHED ANOTHER EDITORIAL ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE TODMAN'S VISIT TO URUGUAY.

UNDER THE HEADING, "A FAVORABLE BALANCE," THE LEADING MONTEVIDEO DAILY COMMENTED, AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN TEXT)

"THE TRIP OF TERENCE TODMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERAMERICAN AFFAIRS, ACCORDING TO ONE NEWS AGENCY (WHICH IS) HEALING POLITICAL WOUNDS OF THE GOVERNMENTS IN THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA, REFLECTS A NEW DIPLOMATIC REALISM BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD ITS HERISPHERE NEIGHBORS, WHILE HISTORY WILL PROBABLY SHOW VERY FEW EVIDENCES OF THE POSITIVE RESULTS OF CAUTIOUS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO COMBAT POLITICAL VIOLENCE, TODMAN'S TOUR OF CHILE, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY

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AND URUGUAY WILL PROBABLY PROVE TO BE A HIGHWATER MARK FOR EXPLAINING THE SITUATION'.

"WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE ACCURACY OF THE APPROACH STEMMING FROM THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH AND WE SHOULD EVEN ADD THAT, WITH REFERENCE TO URUGUAY, THE RESULTS (OF THE VISIT) SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN WERE EXPECTED. BECAUSE IT IS TRUE THAT THE MOOD BEFORE TODMAN'S ARRIVAL, DID NOT AUGUR WELL. HOWEVER, THE ABILITY,

DIPLOMACY AND PERSONAL WARMTH OF WASHINGTON'S ENVOY OPENED THE WAY FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION. TODMAN'S STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN CHILE AND ARGENTINA HAD ALREADY PRESAGED A CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY STANCE, QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE PRESUMPTUOUS AGGRESSIVENESS WHICH SOME PEOPLE EXPECTED BASED ON THE THRUST PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SET FOR HIS POLICIES.

"THE RESULTS PROVE THAT THIS POSITIVE ATTITUDE ACHIEVED A FAVORABLE BALANCE DURING TODMAN'S 45 HOURS IN OUR MIDST. OR, AS ONE HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID, IT 'BROKE THE ICE.' AND, WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, WHAT HAPPENED IN OUR COUNTRY AND THE OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, MAY BE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A MODIFICATION IN THE UNITED STATES APPROACH TOWARD THE NATIONS OF THIS AREA.

"OF COURSE NOT EVERYTHING WILL BE SWEETNESS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES DUE SOLELY TO THE FACT THAT MR. TODMAN HAS ACTED IN A VERY CORDIAL MANNER AND DISPLAYED DIPLOMATIC SKILL DURING HIS RECENTLY COMPLETED TOUR. SOME THINGS REMAIN PENDING AND NOT ALL OF THE MISGIVINGS HAVE BEEN OVERCOME. AND ALTHOUGH IT IS REASSURING THAT TODMAN SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES THAT THE U.S. PRESS DOES PRESENT A DISTORTED IMAGE OF THESE COUNTRIES AS HE SAID REGARDING ARGENTINA, IF IS ALSO TRUE THAT ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ANDREW YOUNG, WAS SAYING IN COSTA RICA THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST CONTINUE ITS WORLD CRUSADE (FOR HUMAN RIGHTS), NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTIES NOTWITHSTANDING.

"AT ANY RATE, THERE IS REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT AFTER TODMAN'S
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VISIT, THERE WILL BE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE REALITIES OF OUR SITUATION BY THE UNITED STATES. AND THAT CAN'T HELP BUT BE SATISFACTORY, SINCE, FOR OUR PART, WE WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO JUDGE THE AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN ITS ENTIRETY, WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY HAS BROADER OBJECTIVES THAN SOME PEOPLE HAD ATTRIBUTED TO IT."

(END OF TEXT)
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